In re: Rao et al.

Appl. No.: 09/478,598 Filed: January 6, 2002

Page 2 of 2

specification of the originally filed application. Therefore, no new matter has been added pursuant to 37 CFR §1.825(a).

If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject Application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh W. Thorne

Registration No. 47,992

Customer No. 00826 ALSTON & BIRD LLP

Bank of America Plaza 101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000 Charlotte, NC 28280-4000 Tel Raleigh Office (919) 862-2200

Fax Raleigh Office (919) 862-2260

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on July 30, 2002.

Lynda-Jo Pixley

RTA01/2121557v1